

Overview: In this outline, I and II indicate that the subject and the goal of the whole Bible and the book of Ezekiel are God's building. III indicates that Christ is the material of the building, IV indicates that in order for God's people to become the material of the building, they need to be measured, exposed and sanctified by God's building and V indicates that the church life, the Body life is the greatest test for our spirituality.

I. The entire Bible is a book of building; the main subject of the Bible is the building of God.

II. The book of Ezekiel begins with a vision of the appearance of the glory of the Lord and ends with a vision of the holy building of God; this indicates that the glory of the Lord, the judgment of God, and the recovery of the Lord are all for the holy building of God

III. According to the prophecy in typology in 2 Samuel 7:12-14a, Christ is both the One who builds the church as God's house and the element with which the church is built:

- A. Christ is the house, His Body, and Christ is also the Builder.
 B. Christ builds the church by building Himself into us, that is, by entering into our spirit and spreading Himself from our spirit into our mind, emotion, and will to occupy our entire soul
 C. This building, a mingling of God's divinity with our redeemed, resurrected, and uplifted humanity, becomes God's habitation and our habitation—a mutual abode
 D. Eventually, this building will consummate in the New Jerusalem for eternity, in which God's redeemed are the tabernacle for God to dwell in, and God Himself is the temple for His redeemed to dwell in.
 (Day 1 and day 2)

IV. The Lord instructed Ezekiel to describe God's house to God's people so that they would be measured by the house and be ashamed of their iniquities:

- A. It was God's intention to check the living and conduct of the people of Israel by the house; in the book of Ezekiel God measured His people by the temple:
1. Because the house of God was to be their regulation, God charged Ezekiel to show them the design of the house.
 2. The temple of God is a pattern, and if the people examine themselves in light of this pattern, they will know their shortcomings.
 3. The living of the people must match the temple of God.
- B. We need to see from the book of Ezekiel that the requirements of the indwelling Christ are according to His house; everyone must be measured and checked according to the measurement of God's house:
1. Our behavior and conduct should be examined not only according to moral regulations and spiritual principles but also according to the church, the house of God.
 2. Our main concern should not be with behaving ourselves or with becoming spiritual but with fitting into God's house
 - a. We may not have "latticed windows," which signify the fellowship of the life-giving Spirit keeping the opening for the divine communication and protecting from the invasion of all negative matters.
 - b. We need to check our humanity by the building and take the humanity of Jesus as our humanity.
 - c. We may realize that we are still "smooth wood" that has not experienced God's "carving" and thus does not have the expression of Christ's glorious image and glorious victory, signified by the cherubim and palm trees carved into the walls.
 - d. We need to be measured to see if we are "wood" of an appropriate measure and are not independent but built in.
 3. If what we are and what we do cannot match God's building, it amounts to nothing in the sight of God.
- C. "This is the law of the house: Its entire area on the top of and all around the mountain shall be most holy. Indeed this is the law of the house":
1. To be on the mountain is to be in resurrection and in the position of ascension; this indicates that the church must be high, on the top of the mountain.
 2. The church must also be holy, separated and sanctified from anything worldly.
 3. The law of God's house is related to God's character:
 - a. God is a God of height, that is, in resurrection and ascension, and He is a God who is holy.
 - b. Likewise, in position the church is high, and in nature the church is most holy.
 - c. If in our church life we are in resurrection and in the position of ascension and if we are most holy, then we can be God's habitation.
- D. Most believers today feel that moral regulations and spiritual principles are sufficient as rules of behavior and conduct; few realize that our behavior and conduct should be examined not only according to moral regulations and spiritual principles but also according to the church, the house of God
- E. Today the Lord's concern is not the law—it is the house; His concern is not spirituality—it is the church:
1. The Lord cares for the church—the place of His throne, the place of the soles of His feet, and the place where He can dwell for rest and satisfaction.
 2. Because the Lord cares so much for the church, His house, we also should care for the church as His house and fashion ourselves according to it.

V. The Body life is the greatest test of our spirituality; if we cannot pass the test of the Body life, our spirituality is not genuine:

- A. Spirituality is a Body matter; everything we have is in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body
 B. In the Body there can be no independence or individualism:
 1. In the Body life, individualistic thought and action are ruled out.
 2. Individualism is hateful in the sight of God; the enemy of the Body is the self—the independent "I".
- C. We must keep the oneness of the Body and practice blending, which is most helpful in keeping the oneness of the Body of Christ.
 D. The reality of the Body of Christ is a corporate living of conformity to the death of Christ through the power of resurrection.
 E. The reality of the Body of Christ is in the resurrection life of Christ; the Body requires the believers to be absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ.
 F. Only Christ is the Head of the Body, and only He has the authority to direct the moves of the members of the Body.
 G. We need to be Body-conscious and to care for the feeling of the Body and the peace of the Body.
 H. A basic requirement for the growth and development of the Body is that we recognize our measure and not go beyond it.
 I. The Body has its proper order; thus, we should recognize and honor the order in the Body.
 J. Mutuality is the characteristic of the Body; our relationship in the Body is one of mutuality and interdependence.
 K. The divine fellowship is the reality of living in the Body of Christ.
 L. We need to care for the growth of the Body and the Body's building up of itself in love.
 M. We should always consider the Body, care for the Body, honor the Body, and do what is best for the Body.
 N. The overcomers see the Body, know the Body, care for the Body, honor the Body, and do the work of the Body; they keep every principle of the Body of Christ, as the continuation and extension of Christ on earth, for the full expression of Christ.

I . The entire Bible is a book of building; the main subject of the Bible is the building of God.

Exodus 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst.

2 Samuel 7:12-14 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will strike him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;

Ephesians 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; (Day 1)

Matthew 16:18 ... I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Day 2)

II . The book of Ezekiel begins with a vision of the appearance of the glory of the Lord and ends with a vision of the holy building of God; this indicates that the glory of the Lord, the judgment of God, and the recovery of the Lord are all for the holy building of God.

Ezekiel 1:1 ...the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

III . According to the prophecy in typology in 2 Samuel 7:12-14a, Christ is both the One who builds the church as God's house and the element with which the church is built:

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (Day 2)

1 Timothy 3:15 ...But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth. (Day 3)

IV . The Lord instructed Ezekiel to describe God's house to God's people so that they would be measured by the house and be ashamed of their iniquities:

Ezekiel 43:10-11 You, O son of man, describe the house to the house of Israel, that they may feel humiliated because of their iniquities, and let them measure the pattern. And if they feel humiliated because of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the house, the arrangement, its exits, its entrances, its whole design, and all its statutes—indeed its whole design and all its laws; and write them down in their sight, that they may keep its whole design and all its statutes, and do them.

Ezekiel 40:16 And the guardrooms and their posts had latticed windows within and all around the gate. The porches also had windows within and all around, and palm trees were on each post.

Philippians 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men; (Day 4)

Ezekiel 43:12 This is the law of the house: Its entire area on the top of and all around the mountain shall be most holy. Indeed this is the law of the house,

Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) (Day 5)

V . The Body life is the greatest test of our spirituality; if we cannot pass the test of the Body life, our spirituality is not genuine:

Ephesians 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually. (Day 6)

Experience① The unique material for the building of the church is Christ experienced by us

In 2 Samuel 7 David, like many of us, had the mistaken concept that God needed him to build something for Him. When some hear this they may wonder how this concept can be wrong since we today are endeavoring to build up the church. Is building the church not a matter of building something for God? To answer this question we need to realize that apparently we are the ones who are building the church, but actually God is the One who is building the church with Christ as the unique element. When we are about to do some building work by speaking for God, He may check with us, saying, "Do you intend to build My house? With what material will you build My house?" If we say that we are building up the church with Christ, God may ask us how much we have of Christ. This exposes our shortage of Christ. We need Christ not merely in name and in knowledge; we need the real Christ, Christ as the Spirit in resurrection. We all need more and more of Christ.

We may have much knowledge of the Bible and be able to teach the Bible to others, but this is not the way to build up the church. The church is not built with the knowledge of the Bible. The church is built with Christ as the unique element. Many times, after trying to build up the saints with Christ, I have had to ask myself, "How much of Christ have you really ministered to the saints? Did you minister only doctrine and the high truths concerning God's economy, or did you minister the real Christ, the genuine Christ, the reality of Christ in resurrection as the Spirit?" Then I had to confess my shortage of Christ and repent, saying, "Lord, forgive me. I am still short of You. I need You to be wrought into me. I need more of You to be constituted into my being."

For Young Working Saints

As a business person, please realize that building of God's house is the ultimate goal and also, at the same time, realize that the material for the building is Christ you experienced.

1Cor3:10 ...But let each man take heed how he builds upon it. 11 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble, 13 The work of each will become manifest; for the day will declare it, because it is revealed by fire, and the fire itself will prove each one's work, of what sort it is.

The materials for building the house of God are gold, silver and precious stones that signify the various experiences of Christ. If you build by your natural way and power, you are building by wood, grass and stubble, which would result in not building but destroying. Here you need to see that your own energy and power can never be the materials for the building.

Your motive for service should not be envy nor seeking of your own glory. You should not excuse yourself by saying, "whatever my motive is, it is ok if my purpose is right". Since motive for service is directly connected with the materials for the building, any impure motive must be dealt with by confessing your sins. Furthermore, when you serve, you should not rely on your natural strength or wisdom. Relying on your natural strength or wisdom, which does not need experiences of Christ, is to build by wood, grass and stubble. Actually, to build by wood, grass and stubble will destroy the building of God.

To serve by seeing the goal of the building and the essential matter of the materials, helps you to drive your projects in the company. Even if the project contains various tasks, it is very important to see what the essential task is and what the ultimate goal is. Anyone who serves carelessly in the church and who builds with wood, grass and stubble, cannot drive the projects properly in his company.

Experience②: Measured by the house of God,

and become a useful person for the building of the house of God

Our main concern today should not be with behaving ourselves or even with becoming spiritual. Our concern should be with fitting into God's house, that is, with how we conduct

ourselves in God's house. The Lord did not command Ezekiel to show the law, the Ten Commandments, to the house of Israel; neither did He command him to show the spiritual principles to the house of Israel. On the contrary, the Lord charged Ezekiel to show His house to the house of Israel.

Suppose a certain young man gets saved. Before he was saved, he treated his parents and his sister quite poorly. Now that he has been saved, he learns how to treat them with respect and to behave rightly and properly in relation to his father, mother, and sister. Later, he learns to be spiritual and to do things such as reckon himself dead. He is good in conduct, and in certain matters he is even spiritual; however, he is altogether independent. He is so independent that he is not willing to pray with others. Such a person, who is extremely independent, does not know anything about God's house. He does not care at all for the church. Everything he does is for himself individually; nothing is for the church, the Body, Christ's corporate expression

For Junior and Senior High School Students

The Lord commanded Ezekiel to write down the house of God for God's people. So that they may be measured by the house and be ashamed of their sins. God does not measure you according to the criteria of correct behavior or spirituality, but measures you by the house of God. In fact, the more you are measured by the house of God, the more you will be properly exposed and will cause you to grow properly. The house of God is the Body of Christ that is built by the increase of Christ within the brothers and sisters. There are many members in the physical body and they function in harmony, so is the Body of Christ. There is absolutely no individualism in the Body. The team works of the cultural festival and the athletic meet in school are actually for the learning of the coordination and the harmony in the Body of Christ. In the future, when you go to the university or get a job, many things will require the team work. These team works are to some extent, similar to the building of the house of God.

Learn to serve for the building not for your own benefits by coordinating with the brothers and the sisters in the church life while you are young. This will maximize your ability. Because, on the one hand God demands you to make the best use of the talent given to you, and on the other hand, God measures you by the building of the house of God. The only way to maximize the ability given by God, is to be measured by the building. Matthew 25 is a clear indication that you must use your talent to the maximum extent.

Matthew25:20 And he who had received the five talents came and brought another five talents, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; behold, I have gained another five talents. 21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master....24 Then he who had received the one talent also came and said, Master, I knew about you, that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow. 25 And I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the earth; behold, you have what is yours. 26 And his master answered and said to him, Evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow. 27 Therefore you should have deposited my money with the money changers; and when I came, I would have recovered what is mine with interest. (The one with 5 talents will be asked to make 5 more, and the one with 1 talent will be asked to make another.)

You are measured by the house of God, coordinating with others, to serve for the building of the Body of Christ, which is the only goal. In this, please learn to deal with your individualism and bear one another in lowliness, and meekness, with long-suffering, and love. As a result, your ability can be maximized, you can be a competent talent not only in school but also in the company you work for in the future. A person that is useful for the building of God is useful for everything. Amen !

Eph4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

606 召会—その建造

1. 自己、てん然を捨て、けんぞうされて、
ともにみやとなり、えいこう満たす。
たかぶり、たんどく、とく異せいを捨て、
主の權威にふくし、主の住まいとなる。
2. せい長し、変えられ、供給し、建造され、
機のを果たして、ひとをしよう就す。
自分にぞくすもの、たかくひょう価せず、
すべてかたよらず、きん衡をたもつ。
3. かしらにつながり、主の豊富、享受す；
かみ増しくわり、円じゅくにいたる。
主のあいを知って、かん全にせい長し、
キリストの豊満の身のたけとなる。
4. みすまい、からだに、けんぞうされて、
主のうつわとなり、えい光あらわす。
はなよめ、みやこは、いまや地上にあり、
なが栄こう照らし、ひとにかがやく。

606 召会—建造

1. 救我脱离自己、天然，主阿，我愿被建造，
同眾圣徒作你圣殿，为著充满你荣耀。
救我脱离乖僻个性，脱离骄傲与单独；
使我甘愿服你权柄，让你有家可居住。
2. 生命供应，活水流通，长进、变化又配搭；
守住等次，尽我功用，成全别人，不践踏。
自己所经，自己所见，所是、所有並所能，
不再高估，不再稍偏，接受一切的平衡。
3. 持定元首，联络供应，享受基督的丰富；
充满神的一切丰盛，因神增加得成熟，
同尝基督莫测大爱，赏识基督的阔长；
长大成人，不作婴孩，满有基督的身量。
4. 作神居所，作你身体，主阿，我愿被建造，
成为你的团体大器，让你来显你荣耀。
圣城景色、新妇荣美，今在此地就彰显，
透出你的荣耀光辉，將你照耀在人间。

840 The Church - Her building

- 1 Freed from self and Adam's nature,
Lord, I would be built by Thee
With the saints into Thy temple,
Where Thy glory we shall see.
From peculiar traits deliver,
From my independent ways,
That a dwelling place for Thee, Lord,
We will be thru all our days.
- 2 By Thy life and by its flowing
I can grow and be transformed,
With the saints coordinated,
Builded up, to Thee conformed;
Keep the order in the Body,
There to function in Thy will,
Ever serving, helping others,
All Thy purpose to fulfill.
- 3 In my knowledge and experience
I would not exalted be,
But submitting and accepting
Let the Body balance me;
Holding fast the Head, and growing
With His increase, in His way,
By the joints and bands supplying,
Knit together day by day.
- 4 By Thy Spirit daily strengthened
In the inner man with might,
I would know Thy love surpassing,
Know Thy breadth and length and height;
Ever of Thy riches taking,
Unto all Thy fulness filled,
Ever growing into manhood,
That Thy Body Thou may build.
- 5 In God's house and in Thy Body
Builded up I long to be,
That within this corporate vessel
All shall then Thy glory see;
That Thy Bride, the glorious city,
May appear upon the earth,
As a lampstand brightly beaming
To express to all Thy worth.